The leaves are soft-textured and measure about two or three inches in length. The shrub grows near the coast in Natal and Pondoland and it likes moist, hot conditions during the Summer.

HIBISCUS DIVERSIFOLIUS

This spreading shrub has three inch, yellow flowers with a reddish-brown centre. It is known as the Cape Hibiscus and it flowers from mid-Summer to Autumn. It grows to a height of about four feet and may be recognized by its broad angular leaves which are deeply indented into five toothed lobes. The branches and leaf stalks are hairy and prickly. This species is found in the south-western and eastern Cape and it likes moisture and prefers a warm sheltered position in areas with cold winters.

HIBISCUS LUDWIGII

This large shrub grows to a height of about ten feet and has flowers measuring about four inches across. These are yellow and sometimes have a purple spot at the base. The leaves are rough and hairy, with five shallow, pointed lobes, the middle one being larger than the other ones. It is found in the eastern Cape, Natal and in the eastern Transvaal and in Tropical Africa generally. It is known as the "Roostouw".

HIBISCUS PENDUNCULATUS

This is an erect shrub which grows to a height of about three or four feet and has pretty pinkish-mauve flowers, hence the name Pink Hibiscus. They are like half-open trumpets and measure two inches across at the mouth and are two inches in length. The stigmas are also pink. The tiny leaves are rough and dark grey-green, measuring less than one inch in length and having three pointed lobes. It flowers from mid-Summer to Autumn. This species is found in Natal and Pondoland near the coast and needs protection against frost in areas with cold winters. It will grow in semi-shade as well as sun.

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HIBISCUS TILIACEUS

This is a large, open-branched tree with spreading branches and which grows to a height of about eighteen feet and is known as the Tree Hibiscus. It has large dark green leaves. The flowers measure about five inches across and they are yellow with a dark centre. They deepen to orange as they mature. This species likes plenty of water and grows at the side of deep rivers. It may be seen at river mouths in Natal and Pondoland. It likes a hot, moist climate and has been used as a street tree in Durban.

HIBISCUS IRRITANS

This would be an attractive border plant if it were not for the irritant stellate hairs. The corolla opens three to three-and=a-half inches wide and the yellow petals are marked at the base with a large maroon blotch nearly half-an-inch long and the overlapping portions and the back are pinkish. It is a perennial up to about three feet tall and is widespread in the Transvaal from Pretoria northwards.

HIBISCUS PRAETERITUS

This grows into a slender shrub about seven feet tall and is one of a group of species with much smaller flowers. Nevertheless, the crimson flowers, over one inch in diameter, are attractive in their natural surroundings in the Zoutpansberg in the northern Transvaal. From there the species extends to Southern Rhodesia and Angola.

HIBISCUS AETHIOPICUS

This is also known as the Golden Hibiscus, and is a herbaceous shrubby perennial. It grows to twelve to eighteen inches high in the open veld. It flowers in the Spring.

HIBISCUS HASTAEFOLIUS

This, known as Wild Hollyhock, is a vigorous annual, three to four feet high with leaves and stems prickly.

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